WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for operating at least one display, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting personal identifiers for people located in a presentation space within which patient content presented by the display can be observed;

determining a profile for each detected personal identifier;

obtaining patient content for presentation on the display based upon the profiles for each detected personal identifier; and

presenting content that is based upon the obtained patient content.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of presenting content comprises automatically presenting content based upon the obtained patient content upon detecting the personal identifiers.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the presented content comprises a listing of obtained patient content associated with individual patients, and further comprising the steps of receiving an input indicating a selected patient and causing the display to present patient content for the selected patient.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the listing of obtained patient content associated with individual patients does not contain confidential information.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of requesting an authentication from each person associated with a detected personal identifier, and receiving the authentication before providing patient content for the selected patient.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of requesting, for each detected personal identifier, an authentication before presentation of the patient content.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the authentication comprises step of receiving an authentication signal and confirming that the authentication signal corresponds to an authentication signal associated with the personal identification.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the authentication signal contains, at least in part, one of biometric information, voice information, a password input, and a personal identification input obtained from a person associated with the personal identifier.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting personal identifiers comprise providing a display space that cannot be entered unless a personal identifier is detected.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein personal identifiers are detected by at least one of a magnetic stripe reader and an optical card reader.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the personal identifiers comprise radio frequency transponders and wherein step of detecting personal identifiers in the presentation space comprises detecting radio frequency signals from transponders in the presentation space and identifying personal identifiers in the presentation space based upon the detected radio frequency signals.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein each personal identifier is associated with viewing privileges and the patient content is associated with access privileges wherein the step of selecting content for presentation comprises combining the viewing privileges in an additive manner and selecting content for presentation based upon the combined viewing privileges and the access privileges.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the element profiles contain viewing privileges, and the patient content is associated with profile contains

access privileges wherein the step of selecting content for presentation based upon the profiles comprises combining viewing privileges in a subtractive manner and selecting content for presentation based upon the combined viewing privileges and the access privileges.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting content for presentation comprises comparing the profiles for the detected personal identifiers to a profile for the patient content and the step of using the selecting content for presentation where the profiles for the detected personal identifiers correspond to the content profile.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient content has a profile and the patient content profile contains access privileges and wherein the step of selecting content for presentation comprises the steps of determining viewing privileges based upon the profiles for each detected personal identifier and selecting the content for presentation only when the access privileges correspond to the viewing privileges.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient content has a content profile that contains viewing privileges associated with particular portions of the patient content and wherein the step of selecting patient content for presentation comprises determining viewing privileges based upon the profile and selecting for presentation only those portions of the patient content having access privileges that correspond to the viewing privileges.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a profile for each personal identifier comprises classifying each personal identifier into a medical provider class and assigning viewing privileges to each personal identifier based upon the element classification.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a profile for each of the personal identifiers comprises identifying each personal

identifier and obtaining viewing privileges for each personal identifier based upon the identification, and wherein the step of obtaining patient content comprises obtaining patient content based upon the viewing privileges for each detected personal identifier.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the profile for each personal identifier indicates viewing conditions under which patient content is to be viewed and further comprising the step of adjusting ambient conditions in the viewings space based upon the profile.

20. A method for operating a display, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting personal identifiers for people in a presentation space in which content presented by the display can be observed;

identifying people in the presentation space using the personal identifiers;

requesting an authentication signal for each person,

receiving the authentication signal from each identified person and verifying that the authentication signal for each identified person corresponds to an authentication signal template linked to the personal identifier for that person;

determining audience member viewing privileges for the verified people;

combining the viewing privileges for the verified people;

selecting patient content for presentation based upon the combined audience viewing privileges and access privileges associated with the patient content; and

presenting at least a part of the selected patient content.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of detecting radio frequency signals in the presentation space wherein the step of determining audience member viewing privileges for the detected people

comprises determining viewing privileges based upon the detected radio frequency signals.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of selecting content for presentation comprises selecting for presentation only patient content that is associated with access privileges that correspond to the combined viewing privileges.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the authentication signal contains, at least in part, one of biometric information, voice information, a password input, a personal identification input obtained from a person associated with the personal identifier.

24. A control system for a display, the control system comprising:
a detector adapted to detect personal identifiers for people located in a presentation space within which patient content presented by the display can be observed;
a processor adapted to determine a profile for each detected personal identifier in the presentation space based and to obtain patient content using the personal profiles; and
wherein the processor causes the display to present content that is based upon the obtained patient content.

25. The control system of claim 24, wherein the processor causes the presented content to display the obtained patient content.

26. The control system of claim 24, wherein the processor causes the presented content to be presented to automatically upon the detecting the personal identifiers.

27. The control system of claim 24, wherein the presented content comprises a listing of obtained patient content associated with individual patients,

and is further adapted to receive an input indicating a selected patient and to cause the display to present patient content for the selected patient.

28. The control system of claim 27, wherein the listing of obtained patient content associated with individual patients does not contain confidential information.

29. The control system of claim 28, further comprising an authentication system that generates an authentication signal in response to a person associated with a personal identifier wherein the processor causes the display to a request for an authentication signal for each detected authentication signal, and wherein the processor does not cause the display to present confidential information before the authentication signal is received and the processor has verified that each authentication signal corresponds with an authentication signal associated with each personal identifier.

30. The control system of claim 29, wherein the authentication system comprises at least one of a biometric scanning device, a voice input device, a password input, and a personal identification input.

31. The control system of claim 24 wherein the step of detecting personal identifiers comprises providing a display space that cannot be entered unless a personal identifier is detected.

32. The control system of claim 24 wherein the detector comprises at least one of a magnetic surface reader, and an optical scanner.

33. The control system of claim the 24 wherein the personal identifiers comprise radio frequency transponders and wherein the detector comprises a radio frequency system adapted to receive radio frequency signals from the radio frequency transponders and to identify personal identifiers based upon the receive radio frequency signals.

34. The control system of claim 24, wherein each personal identifier is associated with viewing privileges and the patient content is associated with access privileges, wherein the step of selecting content for presentation based upon the profiles comprises combining the viewing privileges in an additive manner and selecting content for presentation based upon the combined viewing privileges and the access privileges.

35. The control system of claim 24, wherein each personal identifier is associated with viewing privileges and the patient content is associated with access privileges, wherein the step of selecting content for presentation comprises combining the viewing privileges and a subtractive manner and selecting content for presentation based upon the combined viewing privileges and the access privileges.

36. The control system of claim 24, wherein the processor compares the profiles for the detected personal identifiers to a profile for the patient content and uses the selected content for presentation wherein the profiles for the detected personal identifiers correspond to the content profile.

37. The control system of claim 24, wherein the patient content has a profile and the patient content profile contains access privileges and wherein the step the processor selects content for presentation by determining viewing privileges based upon profiles for each detected personal identifier and selects content for presentation only when the access privileges correspond to viewing privileges associated with the detected personal identifiers.

38. The control system of claim 24, wherein the patient content has a content profile that contains viewing privileges associated with particular portions of the patient content and wherein the processor selects only those portions of the patient content having access privileges that correspond to the viewing privileges of the detected personal identifiers.

39. The control system of claim 24 wherein the processor determines a profile for each personal identifier by classifying each personal identifier into a medical professional class and assigning viewing privileges to each personal identifier based upon the classification.

40. The control system of claim 24, wherein processor determines a profile determining a profile for each of the personal identifiers by identifying each personal identifier in obtaining viewing privileges for each personal identifier from a database using the identification, and wherein the step of obtained patient content comprises obtaining patient content based upon the viewing privileges for each detected personal identifier.

41. The control system of claim 24, wherein the profile for each personal identifier indicates viewing conditions under which patient content is to be viewed and wherein the control system further comprises control device for controlling environmental conditions in the display space and the processor is further adapted to adjust ambient environmental conditions in the viewing space based upon the profile.

42. The control system of claim 41, wherein the profile for each patient content indicates viewing conditions under which the patient content is to be viewed and wherein the processor is further adapted to adjust ambient conditions in the viewing space based upon the profile for each personal identifier and the profile for the patient content.

43. The control system of claim 42, wherein the controller is further adapted to control other display devices capable of presenting patient related content, and said controller causes such display devices to present content that is based upon the obtained patient content.

44. A control system for operating a display, the control system comprising:

a detector adapted to detect personal identifiers associated with the audience members in a presentation space in which content presented by the display can be observed;

an authentication system that generates an authentication signal in response to an audience member associated with a personal identifier;

a processor adapted to determine a profile for each detected personal identifier in the presentation space and to obtain patient content using the personal profiles; and

wherein the processor causes the display to present content that is based upon the obtained patient content only where an authentication signal has been received for each personal identifier in the presentation space and where each authentication signal is found to correspond with an authentication signal template that is linked to the personal identifier.

45. The control system of claim 44, wherein the authentication system comprises at least one of a biometric scanning device, a voice input device, a password input, and a personal identification input.

46. The control system of claim 44, wherein the controller is adapted to control the operation of at least one other display and allows the other display to present patient related content only where an authentication signal has been received for each personal identifier in the presentation space and where each authentication signal is found to correspond with an authentication signal template that is linked to the personal identifier.